

## Section 8 - Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

- **Background**

The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) is an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska and is maintained by the Office of History and Archaeology. This inventory of cultural resources include objects, structures, buildings, sites, districts, and travel ways, with a general provision that they be over 50 years old. The Department of Natural Resources considers that the AHRs is the central repository for all historic, prehistoric, and paleontological site information in Alaska.

The fundamental use of the AHRs is to protect cultural resource sites from unwanted destruction. Various state and federal agencies and private companies use the inventory when planning or reviewing development projects. By knowing of possible cultural remains prior to construction, efforts can be made to avoid project delays and prevent unnecessary destruction of these non-renewable resources. Listing on the AHRs does not in and of itself, provide protection for sites. But it does allow for knowledgeable decisions to be made concerning the future of these sites.

State agencies, native corporations, federal agencies, and other organizations charges with managing cultural resource are concerned with the state policy to keep AHRs site location data confidential. Unrestricted availability of such information to any and all individuals increases the threat of site destruction and may prompt federal agencies, native corporations, and private land owners to withhold site information from the AHRs. In order to receive the most comprehensive site location data possible, it is necessary to limit dissemination of such information to professional organizations and legitimate researchers. Failure to do so may

result in loss of information to the state, thereby causing a major hinderance to the state's developmental planning process and to scientific research in general.

Access to site location information contained in the AHRs is closed to the general public (as required by P.L. 96-95; AS 9.25.120, Exception 4; Policy and Procedure no. 50200), which authorizes users representatives of federal, state, or local governments on official business: researchers engaged in legitimate scientific research; individuals or representatives of organizations conducting cultural resource surveys aimed at protection of such information or sites; or such individuals determined by the Chief of the office maintaining the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey as having a legitimate need for access.

- **Authority**

The authority for the State of Alaska to hold historic, prehistoric, and paleontological site information confidential is contained in AS 9.25.120. Exception 4, which states that "records which are required to be kept confidential under federal law" may be held confidential by the state. P.L. 96-95 (Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, sections 9a-b) requires such confidentiality for shared records. The 1976 Amendment (P.L. 94-458) to Freedom of Information Act (P.L. 89-665) provides the Secretary of Interior with the authority to withhold from public disclosure the specific location of archaeological resources which are listed on the National Register when it is determined "that the disclosure of specific information would create a risk of destruction or harm to such sites or objects." Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation authority in this matter is established under 11 AAC 16.010.

- **Site Locations**

The AHRS is primarily a map based system. Site locations are plotted on USGS topographic maps at 1:63,360 (1" = 1 mile) scale and 1:250,000 (1" = 4 miles) scale. As well as map locations, a short description of the characteristics of each site including site name (an AHRS designation and common names), a description of the physical remains, data on the site's location, and a list of bibliographic citations (as well as a variety of additional information relevant to management and research needs). The AHRS site designation consists of a three-letter abbreviation of the quadrangle followed by a number, indicating what order it was found in. For example, SIT-010 is the AHRS designation for the tenth site reported within the Sitka quadrangle.

To report a site (historic, prehistoric and/or archaeological) to the Office of History and Archaeology for inclusion into the AHRS you will need to have an accurate map location of the site, preferably using a 1:63,360 scale map, and a description of the site. Even though not required, photographs are sometimes very helpful in describing a site.

- **Site location and Description Example**

The following is an idealized site description. This much detail is not necessary to report a site, but this example will provide you with an idea of what kinds of data can be gathered from just looking at a site. Minimally, the Office of History and Archaeology would like an accurate location and a brief description of what is at the site, how many structures, depressions, what are their sizes and shapes, whether artifacts are present, if so what kind, etcetera.

1. **Site Description:** The site has the remains of two historic buildings as well as six depressions. The historic portion of the site consists of two rectangular, partially collapsed

log structures, with overlapping, square-notched corners. The lower five logs of the structure are still present. The logs were debarked and the ends cut with an axe. The larger structure is approximately 16 feet on its long axis which runs north-south and approximately 13 feet on the shorter, east-west axis. The roofs of both structures are missing and the windows lack glass panes and the door is not present. The smaller structure is approximately 13 feet on its north-south axis and 10 feet on its east-west axis. Both doors are on the shorter wall of the structures and face toward the coastline. These historic structures are found in the woods just upstream from the grassy area where a prehistoric archaeological component of this site was found. A historic garbage dump, which is partially obscured by vegetation, was found back behind the smaller of the two structures.

The apparent prehistoric portion of the site consists of two square, single-chambered depressions, each measuring approximately 10 feet across and 3 feet deep, and four smaller, ovoid to round depressions. These smaller depressions range from 3 feet to 5 feet on their longest axes and are all approximately 2 feet deep. These features are located in a linear arrangement paralleling the coastline approximately 33 feet back from the edge of the unvegetated beach margin. The two larger depressions are at either end of the string of depressions, which run for a distance of approximately 200 feet and extend approximately 100 feet back from the edge of the unvegetated beach. The site area is covered with grasses. Trees surround the site but apparently do not grow on the site area. Shell and charcoal were noted eroding out of the edge of the wave-cut beach, but no artifacts were noted.

2. **Site Location:** The site is located at the head of NoName Cove, which is located approximately 45 miles southwest of Snaketown. The site is located on the south side of the stream that flows from the head of the cove. The site is located on Incognito Quadrangle B3; in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 17 of township 14 north, range 13 west of Seward

Meridian (written: NESESE, Sec. 17. T14NR13W.SM).

3. **Site Record Card:** The following AHRs site record survey sheet contains such information as the site name, a description of the physical remains, data on the sites location, and a list of bibliographic citations, as well as a variety of additional information relevant to management and research needs.

## ALASKA HERITAGE RESOURCES SURVEY

SITE #: INC - 999

MAPSHEET: B3 NESESE, SEC. 17, T14N, R13W,SM  
66°14'57"N/156°17'14"W AREA: <001  
UTM

?➤ NONAME COVE SITE

This site consists of the collapsed remains of two log cabins (measuring 4.8 X 4m and 4m X 3m), an historic garbage dump, about seven house pits (measuring from 4.5m X 3.5m to 3m X 3m in size), and four small cache pits (about 1.5m in diameter) situated on a bench on the south side of the creek. The grass-covered site area measures about 90m X 30m. A scatter of historic mining paraphernalia was noted in and around the cabins. Up to 70cm of shell and charcoal midden was noted eroding from the stream bank, but no artifacts were apparent. A possible stone fish weir was noted in the intertidal zone.

SITE SIGNIFICANCE:

LOCATION:

On the south side of the creek at the head of Noname Cove, approximately 15 miles southeast of Snake Island.

CITATIONS:

Dale, R.J. 1988: 13-19

DANGER OF DESTRUCTION : Erosion

ASSOCIATED DATE:

PERIOD: Prehistoric/Historic

RESOURCE NATURE: Site, House pits, Cache pits, Fish weir, Cabins

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: Chugach, Euroamerican

PRESERVATION STATUS: NRE ◀

OWNER: State of Alaska

REPOSITORY:

ACCESSION #:

BIA/BLM #:

OTHER:

RELIABILITY: A1CODED BY: RJ DATE OF ENTRY: 08/14/88; 08/14/88

DATE OF PRINTOUT: 12/15/89

CONDITION: C

ENVIRONMENT: 030915

NHR DATE: 09/17/89